

Washington 2001 Crop Weather Season Review

JANUARY: Below average precipitation coupled with above average temperatures characterized the month. Snowpack in the mountains was below average. Producers were concerned about water supplies for spring and summer. Producers took advantage of the mild weather and continued pruning fruit trees. Hay supplies were adequate, with livestock reported in good condition. Christmas trees were replanted ahead of schedule.

FEBRUARY: Soil moisture levels across the state continued to be short. Reservoir levels and snowpack in the Cascades were about 50 percent of normal. No damage was reported to farms, ranches, or livestock from the Puget Sound earthquake. The winter wheat crop was in good condition. Pruning activities continued for tree fruit. Calving and lambing began. Livestock feeding was running short due to earlier than normal feeding. Daffodil growers reported first blooms.

MARCH: Spring activities were in full swing, as unseasonably warm and dry conditions characterized the month. Livestock and irrigation water supplies were still a concern as springs and streams may not supply sufficient amounts. Winter wheat looked good with a few reports of snow mold. Spring seeding was underway. Turfgrass growers were busy fertilizing, mowing, and harvesting. Dairy producers applied liquid manure to forage fields. Christmas tree growers finished up planting and applying herbicides.

APRIL: Producers were busy with spring fieldwork. Temperatures were below normal and precipitation was lagging during April. Cool conditions slowed the growth and development of both winter wheat and spring planted cereals. By the end of the month, the weather became warmer and growers began planting potatoes and vegetables. Spring calving and lambing were completed as cattle began to graze on early ranges. Daffodil and tulip harvest were complete. Hop growers began hop tying activities.

MAY: Cereal crops were stressed by warmer than average temperatures and below average precipitation. Producers finished spring wheat, barley, dry pea and potato seeding, while dry bean, corn and fresh market planting continued. Christmas tree growers sprayed fungicides and pesticides for needle midge and adelgids control. Some hay producers abandoned poor hay fields due to low precipitation. Cool temperatures caused concern for pollination of fruit crops and delayed cranberry bogs. Berry crops were in full bloom and asparagus harvest continued through the month.

JUNE: Field crops across the state received relief with much needed precipitation. The rain helped winter and spring wheat as well as barley head out and develop. Cherries and strawberries developed normally and were harvested towards the end of the month. Raspberries and other berries developed behind schedule. Apples and other fruit production continued

with pesticides for scab being applied and fruit being thinned. The asparagus harvest ended and the green pea harvest began. Rainfall improved pasture conditions but delayed the grass silage harvest and first cutting of alfalfa.

JULY: Warm weather welcomed the month, giving way to cooler temperatures and scattered showers by the third week. Winter wheat harvest was in full swing and spring grain harvest began. The second and third cutting of hay and silage harvest was underway. Range and pasture conditions continued to decline due to little precipitation and warm weather. Grasshoppers damaged forage fields in Garfield County. Cherry, raspberry, blueberry, and a multitude of vegetables continued to be harvested. Nectarine, peach, and early apple variety harvest began. Apples and pears were showing color and sizing up well.

AUGUST: Hot, dry weather at the beginning of the month provided excellent conditions for grain harvests. Heavy rainfall on the western side of the state during the third week was welcomed. Winter wheat seeding began. Potato, onion, carrot, mint, alfalfa seed, grass seed and flower bulb harvest were underway. U-Pick farms and local farmers' markets had exceptional business. Range and pasture conditions continued to deteriorate. The second cutting of alfalfa was completed and the third cutting was almost done. Eastern Washington reported tight feeding supplies. Emergency programs for livestock watering began, due to water sources in eastern Washington drying up.

SEPTEMBER: Warm, dry weather for the month aided in the completion of grain harvest. Christmas tree growers trimmed trees, prepared roads and equipment for harvest. Dry pea harvest and the third cutting of alfalfa was complete. Turfgrass growers were busy seeding and netting fields. Carrot, onion, potato, sweet corn and corn for silage harvests progressed. Drought conditions plagued range and pastures causing many cattle producers to wean calves and cull herds. Blueberry harvest was complete. Apple, pear, wine grape, hop, and other soft fruit harvests were in full swing.

OCTOBER: Winter wheat was seeded and began to emerge. Precipitation improved wheat emergence by the end of the month. Potatoes, onions, carrots, pumpkins, and other vegetable harvests continued. Christmas tree growers prepared trees, fields, and roads for harvest. Turfgrass growers mowed fields between rain showers. Cranberry harvest continued. The Cranberry Festival was underway in Grayland. Red Delicious, Granny Smith and Braeburn apples and Asian pear harvests were in full swing and complete by month's end. Some farmers harvested a fifth cutting of hay. Dairy operations continued to harvest grass and corn silage. Pumpkin patches opened to brisk business while corn mazes continued to operate for fall visitors.

NOVEMBER: Heavy rainfall in western Washington caused some flooding of fields. Farmers were transporting machinery and livestock to higher ground by the third week of the month. Christmas tree farmers were cutting trees, preparing roads, and posting signs for holiday season business. Precipitation received across the state improved range, pasture and winter wheat condition. Apple harvest was complete by late in the month and orchard pruning began. Winter vegetables continued to be harvested for local farmers' markets.

DECEMBER: Much needed precipitation was received across the state, improving subsoil moisture levels. Flooding occurred in several western Washington counties. Cool, crisp nights caused livestock producers to increase supplemental feeding. Most winter wheat had snow cover protection. Warm temperatures in early December allowed producers to finish up CRP grass seeding and shrub planting. Christmas tree growers finished another successful harvest. Flower bulb growers reported the emergence of daffodil foliage.

Weather Summary for Washington from January 1, 2001 to December 31, 2001

STATION	COUNTY	ELEV. FEET	AIR TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION			
			HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	% NORMAL	DAYS
WEST										
Bellingham	Whatcom	157	82	23	50	-1	35.30	-0.87	98	162
Everett	Snohomish	606	84	26	51	0	32.99	-3.52	90	163
Hoquiam	Grays Harbor	12	85	28	50	-2	63.13	-4.77	93	178
Kelso	Cowlitz	16	93	14	52	+1	31.34	-15.20	67	148
Olympia	Thurston	200	91	18	49	-1	49.78	-0.81	98	156
Seattle-Tacoma	King	449	88	26	51	-1	36.61	-0.58	98	153
Shelton	Mason	279	91	21	50	-3	64.20	-0.67	99	164
Tacoma_WA_AP	King	321	90	19	51	-2	34.17	-6.09	85	141
Vancouver	Clark	25	98	7	53	+3	30.63	-10.67	74	156
CENTRAL										
Ellensburg	Kittitas	1,765	100	6	48	+1	8.21	-0.73	92	84
Omak	Okanogan	1,298	104	3	49	+5	9.66	-5.39	64	81
Stampede Pass	Kittitas	3,966	85	12	40	+2	76.97	-4.05	95	188
Wenatchee	Chelan	1,243	100	6	51	+1	6.22	-2.09	75	76
Yakima AP	Yakima	1,056	101	6	51	+2	6.45	-1.52	81	73
NORTHEAST										
Colville	Stevens	1,876	102	0	49	+4	16.56	-4.66	78	89
Deer Park	Spokane	2,204	99	-4	46	-2	19.91	+1.38	107	127
Spokane AP	Spokane	2,365	99	0	48	+1	13.94	-2.55	85	112
EAST CENTRAL										
Ephrata	Grant	1,273	102	1	52	0	7.00	-0.23	97	85
Moses Lake	Grant	1,185	103	1	51	0	6.18	-1.05	85	78
Quincy	Grant	3,883	99	2	52	+2	6.85	-0.98	87	69
Ritzville	Adams	1,830	102	13	49	+1	11.75	+0.43	104	84
SOUTHEAST										
Hanford	Benton	731	104	1	54	-2	6.12	-0.37	94	71
Pasco	Franklin	407	105	1	53	-1	6.63	-0.86	89	79
Pullman	Whitman	2,552	99	0	48	+1	13.87	-7.22	66	109
Walla Walla AP	Walla Walla	1,204	103	1	53	-1	15.12	-4.37	78	100
Whitman Mission	Walla Walla	632	102	5	52	0	14.41	+0.66	105	103
IDAHO:										
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE										
Coeur D’AP	Kootenai	2,319	97	0	48	-2	21.00	-4.95	81	127
Lewiston ID	Nez Perce	1,436	106	18	54	+2	10.50	-1.93	84	103

Summary based on NWS data.

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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